

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 22, 2022

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Kauffman, Vice Chairman Andrus, Representatives Boyle, Kerby, Giddings, Marshall, Nichols, Hanks, Cannon, Moon, McCann, Toone, Ruchti (Roberts), Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep.(s) Ruchti, Giddings

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Vice-Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Cannon** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2022, and February 16, 2022 committee meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 606: **Rep. Boyle** presented **H 606**, legislation adding to the definition of Agricultural Operations under the Right to Farm Act. Agricultural aircraft must travel to and from agricultural lands and treatment areas to perform their vital functions. With a growing agricultural/ urban interface in Idaho, it is important to recognize and protect the ability for agricultural aircraft to access agricultural lands. This legislation does not relieve pilots from Federal Aviation Administration regulations related to low-flying and congested areas. **David Lehman**, Executive Director, Idaho Agricultural Aviation Association; **George Parker**, Crop Jet Aviation; and **Randy Quigley** testified in support of **H 606**, saying this bill protects them from nuisance lawsuits. Citizens disapprove of the noise of the aircraft during crop spraying.

MOTION: **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to send **H 606** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Eric Olson, Chairman, Idaho Oilseed Commission, explained oilseeds are grown primarily for the production of edible oils. Canola oil is obtained by pressing the seeds and then extracting the oil. The meal obtained in the extraction is a rich source of proteins and can be used for feed. Canola provides excellent foliage habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects, and is a positive influence on the bee population. Canola is heart healthy because it is very low in saturated fat. When canola was incorporated in small grain rotations, disease incidence on cereal crops decreased and quality increased.

DOCKET NO. 51-0101-2100F: **TK Tuwahara**, CEO, Idaho Beef Council, explained there was only one rule chapter in this omnibus reauthorization of existing rules that has previously been reviewed and approved by the legislature. She said their approach to the omnibus was in line with the Red Tape Reduction Act from **Governor Little** to review the rules and identify and eliminate rules that are obsolete or unnecessary. Over all the rule is lighter and easier for Idahoans to navigate with no substantive changes.

MOTION: **Rep. Toone** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 51-0101-2100F.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chairman Andrus turned the gavel over to **Chairman Kauffman.**

TK Tuwahara, CEO, Idaho Beef Council, gave a brief history of the Idaho beef industry stating there are approximately 8,200 beef producers across the state. The eight member board represents the cow/ calf sector, cattlemen, feeders, auction markets, and dairy representatives, and are appointed by the Governor. The Idaho Beef Council focuses on education, promotion and research, and provides a collective voice to tell the Idaho Beef Story. Ms. Tuwahara explained social and digital media are used to connect to consumers and educate them on what cuts to purchase, how to store and different ways to prepare beef. The Council's strategic goals include communicating beef's value and overcoming misconceptions and growing consumer trust in beef and beef products. The Idaho Beef Story is to educate and inspire, highlight responsibility, drive innovation, build pride in Idaho, and nourish Idaho.

Clara-Leigh Evans, Executive Director, Idaho Future Farmers of America (FFA), **Kayden Driggs**, State President, Driggs; **Katie Hebdon**, State Vice President, Nampa; **Claire Shelton**, State Secretary, Meridian; **Cassie Moody**, State Treasurer, Middleton; **Kennedy Farden**, State Reporter, New Plymouth; **Cassie Morey**, State Sentinel, Deary, Idaho, were introduced to the committee. Cassie Morey and Katie Hebdon explained the first Idaho Future Farmers of America (FFA) was chartered in Malad in 1929. There are now 5,300 members and seven districts across the state. FFA centers around the three-circle model of Agricultural Education (AE), FFA, and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). AE is learning in the classroom, FFA is learning the leadership role, and SAE is combining the classroom experiences with leadership roles in a hands on experience.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Representative Kauffman
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary